

The Honour of All

The *Tundra Times* staff recently took some time to view *The Honour of All*, a film about the alcoholism problems of the Alkali Lake Indians of British Columbia.

The people of this small village, over a period of a number of years, went from nearly 100 percent alcoholism to nearly 100 percent sobriety.

Although many parts of this film are painful — it's hard to imagine *anyone* viewing it without feeling very strong emotions — the key message is of love and hope and joy.

We will continue to stress in this newspaper the devastating effects alcohol has on all Alaskans. It's very easy to feel depressed about the toll alcohol takes on us and our families. We who are fighting our own problems by deciding not to drink are probably among those most frustrated because we so desperately want to see others change their lives.

What this film does, however, is portray those difficult feelings, while at the same time showing just how much hope there is for anyone who is still experiencing problems with alcohol.

Alkali Lake was known as "Alcohol Lake" before the Native people took their problems into their own hands. Life there looked about as bleak as you can imagine. Children were not being properly fed and clothed. Some of the elders were abused by their own grown children. In fact, Native people were literally killing themselves and each other while they were drunk.

And yet, they found the means within their own culture and their own traditions to stop drinking.

What makes this film so powerful is that the Native people themselves tell the story of how they became sober.

It's a beautiful film, and we would strongly urge Alaska Native villages and organizations to obtain a copy of it. Copies cost about \$300 and are available from the Alkali Lake Indian Band, Box 4479, Williams Lake, British Columbia V2G2V5.

Those who would like to view the film in Anchorage without purchasing it may contact the Rural Alaska Community Action Program at 279-2511 or the Association for Stranded Rural Alaskans in Anchorage, 277-7043.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ROSITA WORL

We'd like to offer our heartfelt congratulations to Rosita Worl, founder of *Alaska Native Magazine*, on her new position as special assistant to Gov. Steve Cowper for rural issues. The governor has made an excellent choice in selecting Worl, who has been actively involved in the Alaska Native community for many years.

Worl is originally from Klukwan, and we believe she will be a strong advocate for Alaska Native people.

The need for this type of advocacy is particularly apparent now, as the governor and lawmakers face the state's serious economic crisis. We're glad Rosita Worl will be there, reminding all these officials of rural Alaska's needs.